

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

RSR-01 /103 W

----- 100931

R 181134 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3288

INFO CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

DOD: ISA

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7843

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TH

SUBJ: GEN. PRAPHAT BLASTS US AID LEVEL REDUCTIONS

FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM MAY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE BY
GENERAL PRAPHAT: BEGIN EXCERPTS.

REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW REGARDING POLITICS IN
AMERICA? SMALL COUNTRIES THAT ARE GIVEN U. S. ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY AID ARE IN A VERY PRECARIOUS POSITION
BECAUSE OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR.

PRAPHAT: I FEEL THAT THE WATERGATE AFFAIR IS A
MATTER CONCERNING DOMESTIC POLITICS IN THE U. S. I
AM NOT ABLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH OR WHAT IS WHAT, THEREFORE
I WILL REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING ANY COMMENT ON IT.
FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMS AS IF IT WILL BECOME A CASE
THAT WILL BE FILED IN AN AMERICAN COURT OF LAW AND THAT
IS ANOTHER REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT EXPRESS ANY COMMENT AT ALL.

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BUT SPEAKING OF AMERICAN POLITICS IN GENERAL AT PRESENT, THE REDUCTION OF AMERICAN AID TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN HELPED IN THE PAST HAS RESULTED IN THE CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT THEY FELT FOR THE U. S. BECOMING SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AND CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. THIS IS BECAUSE THE U. S. CAN BE COMPARED TO A COUNTRY THAT IS THE LEADER OF THE BLOC OF LIBERAL COUNTRIES. NOW IT IS CUTTING DOWN AID SUDDENLY AND FOR NO JUSTIFIABLE REASON, IT MAKES THOSE COUNTRIES FEEL AS IF THEY ARE BEING DESERTED. IT COULD BE SAID TO BE NO DIFFERENT FROM PERSUADING PEOPLE TO COME AND FORM A PARTY OR GROUP, THEN TO DRAW APART FROM THEM AND DESERT THEM ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT AND EASILY. THIS MAKES COUNTRIES THAT WERE IN THE GROUP HEADED BY THE U. S. LOSE RESPECT FOR AND CONFIDENCE IN IT TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INCREASING THE INFLUENCE OF THE OTHER SIDE RAPIDLY.

REPORTER: DO YOU MEAN RED CHINA AND THE COMMUNISTS?

PRAPHAT: YES. IT HAS MADE THE INFLUENCE OF THE OTHER SIDE TO THE GROUP OF LIBERAL COUNTRIES INCREASE RAPIDLY, IN AFRICA, IN ASIA, AND IN EUROPE.

REPORTER: I HAVE HEARD THAT AMERICAN AID TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THIS YEAR. IS THAT TRUE?

PRAPAHT: IT HAS BEEN REDUCED.

REPORTER: WILL IT CAUSE ANY REPERCUSSIONS?

PRAPHAT: WE HAVE PROVIDED AN INCREASED BUDGET AND SEVERAL PROJECTS THAT WERE STARTED WILL HAVE TO BE ABANDONED.

REPORTER: SINCE THE PROCLAMATION OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE, SOME YEARS AID HAS BEEN REDUCED BUT SOME YEARS IT HAS BEEN INCREASED, DUE TO NECESSITY. HOW CAN A REDUCTION OF AID THIS WAY COORDINATE WITH THE PRINCIPLE PROCLAIMED?

PRAPHAT: IN REGARD TO THIS IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT
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AID WOULD BE CUT DOWN... BOTH CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND ECONOMIC AID HAVE BEEN REDUCED ALSO, AND IT WAS SAID THAT THIS WAS FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF THE NECESSITY.

REPORTER: WE HAVE HAD AID FOR THE POLICE CUT DOWN, AND WHAT OTHER FORMS OF AID GIVEN US HAVE BEEN CUT DOWN?

PRAPHAT: AID GIVEN IN ALL FORM HAS BEEN REDUCED.
END EXCERPTS.
MASTERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO07843
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730548/aaaajlcf.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by kuehnbc0>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980220
Subject: GEN. PRAPHAT BLASTS US AID LEVEL REDUCTIONS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TH
To: CINCPAC
DOD: ISA
EA:
SECSTATE: WASHDC
USIA:
WASHDC:
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005